

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated September 17, 2008. Claims 3, 4 and 7-10 remain in this application. Claim 3 is the independent Claim. Claims 3, 4, 7, and 9 have been amended. Claims 1-2, 5-6 and 11-13 have been cancelled, without prejudice. It is believed that no new matter is involved in the amendments or arguments presented herein.

Reconsideration and entrance of the amendment in the application are respectfully requested.

Non-Art Based Rejections

Claims 3, 4, 7 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for indefiniteness. In response, Applicant has amended those claims to address the rejections.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the above § 112 rejections are respectfully requested.

Art-Based Rejections

Claims 3, 4, 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,502,806 (Mahoney) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,748,364 (Waytena); Claim 7 was rejected as obvious over Mahoney in view of Waytena and U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2002/0174003 (Redmann); Claim 10 was rejected as obvious over Mahoney in view of Waytena and U.S. Patent No. 5,948,040 (DeLorme).

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections and submits that the claims herein are patentable in light of the clarifying amendments above and the arguments below.

The Mahoney Reference

Mahoney is directed to a waiting line management system. An access card distribution 12 distributes and reports the issuance of cards to a host computer 10. In particular, an identification number is reported. A card 52 inserted into a card reader 54 is verified before a patron can select a particular ride and time. A communications link 14 links the computer 10 to waiting line management computers 16, 18, and 20 (See *Mahoney*; col. 3, lines 22-24, col. 4, lines 4-15 and col. 6, lines 50-52

The DeLorme Reference

DeLorme is directed to a computerized planning system that generates a map ticket (See *DeLorme*; *Abstract*).

The Waytena Reference

Waytena is directed to managing patron reservations. A Request ID 422 as an ID number for reservation requests and a PCD ID 421 for identifying the PCD 102 (See *Waytena*; Col. 10, lines 33-38).

The Redmann Reference:

Redmann is directed to a method for creating itineraries for a party of visitors to a facility with multiple attractions. (See. *Redmann*, *Abstract*; [0001].)

The Claims are Patentable Over the Cited References

The present application is generally directed to a facility reserving system.

As defined by amended independent Claim 3, a facility reserving system is configured to be installed at a site to which admittance is granted with an admission ticket, and configured to receive a usage reservation from a user via a communication network, who wants to use one or more facilities via the reservation by the admission

ticket with respect to a usage of the facilities, out of users who have received a distribution of the admission ticket. The system includes the admission ticket including an electronically stored identifier mounted on the ticket and a printed identifier. The electronically stored identifier corresponds to the printed identifier. A server on a reservation side includes an admission ticket ID data base which stores a relationship between the electronically stored identifier and the printed identifier. A facility reservation data base stores a relationship among the electronically stored identifier, a reservation facility name and reservation time slot information. Means for receiving the printed identifier transmitted from a user terminal via the communications network is provided. Means for authenticating the received printed identifier in light of the admission ticket ID data base is provided. Means for associating the electronically stored identifier with the printed identifier in the light of the admission ticket ID data base is provided. Means for associating the electronically stored identifier with a reservation facility name and reservation time slot information which are produced by a user operating the user terminal is provided. Ans means for registering the electronically stored identifier, the reservation facility name, and the reservation time slot information in the facility reservation data base (DB) is provided. An administration device on a facility side includes means for reading the electronically stored identifier from the admission ticket via a reader, means for referring a facility name and a reservation time registered in the facility reservation DB from the read electronically stored identifier, means for investigating whether or not a usage of a facility is in accordance with a reservation; and means for admitting the usage in a case of being in accordance with the reservation.

The applied references fail to disclose or suggest the above features of the claims of the present invention. In particular, the applied references fails to disclose or suggest "an admission ticket ID data base which stores a relationship between the electrically stored identifier and the printed identifier," and "a facility reservation data

base which stores a relationship among the electrically stored identifier, a reservation facility name and reservation time slot information," as required by amended independent Claim 3 of the present invention.

By way of explanation, the present invention makes it possible to handle a paper admission ticket as an electronic ticket, and control it regardless of whether an admittance to a facility is granted, based on an admission ticket ID (printed identifier) that is printed on paper and an ID (electrically stored identifier) that is electronically stored in an admission ticket. Advantageously, this feature makes it possible for one to smoothly pass through the gate and to provide an advanced and convenient service that additionally provides excellent security (See, U.S. Application Publication (US2004/0117219A1, paragraph [0100])).

Mahoney discloses that, with respect to a popular attraction in a theme park, people are in a long queue, and therefore, a card is issued to a client by an access card distribution 12 in order to eliminate a frustration to be given to the client. According to Mahoney; the client makes a card reader 54 read the card by card line terminals 28, 30 installed in each and every attraction; thereby the card is authenticated; and when the card is determined to be effective, the client inputs a time slot as reservation by the card line terminal and a host computer determines whether or not the reservation is available. Mahoney teaches that the card is issued by the access card distribution 12 in a theme park. The reference fails to make any clear and specific disclosure regarding the authentication processing of the card, but appears to suggest electronic storage of one ID number, which is assigned to the card and used by the card reader to make the authentication.

In contrast, the present invention, as defined by amended independent Claim 3, requires using an admission ticket having two kinds of ID numbers, that is, one electrically stored and the other printed. Advantageously, the present invention's handling a paper admission ticket as an electronic ticket, which is controlled whether or

not an admittance to a facility is granted, based on an admission ticket ID (printed identifier) printed on paper and an ID (electrically stored identifier) electrically stored in an admission ticket and results in smoother passing through the gate and provide an advanced and convenient service that is excellent in security compared to that of prior art.

The applied Waytena reference similarly fails to meet the requirements of the present invention, as defined by amended independent Claim 3.

Waytena discloses a mobile terminal PCD 102 that is distributed to a client of a visitor to a facility where various attractions are opened, and the client uses the PCD 102, accesses an attraction computer 101 provided in each and every attraction through a radio network 105, and reserves a desired attraction, using the PCD 102.

Although the Office Action indicates that Waytena discloses use of two ID numbers, one of ordinary skill in the art would appreciate that the disclosed PCD ID 421 of Waytena is an ID number uniquely held by each PCD distributed to a visitor, and a Request ID 422 is an ID information that is produced by the PCD 102 and used in sending a reservation request to the attraction computer 101 (See, Waycolumn 10, lines 33-36). A client receives a distribution of the PCD 102 and initially inputs an age 221, a sex 222, a stature 223, and a body weight 224, and thereby these pieces of information are saved in a memory within the PCD 102 as the Request ID 422. That is, the Request ID 422 is the personal information of a client that is first input.

According to Waytena, the PCD of a mobile terminal is distributed to a client in visiting a site. One of ordinary skill in the art would appreciate that the disclosure of Waytena is different from the current invention that requires use of an admission ticket having two kinds of ID numbers, one electrically stored and the other printed.

Accordingly, Mahoney and Waytena, alone or in combination, fail to disclose, teach or even suggest the above features of amended independent Claim 3 of the present invention.

The ancillary Redmann and DeLorme references are not seen to address the above noted deficiencies of Mahoney and Waytena.

Since the applied reference fails to disclose, teach or suggest the above features recited in amended independent Claim 3, those references cannot be said to anticipate nor render obvious the invention which is the subject matter of those claims.

Accordingly, amended independent Claim 3 is believed to be in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully requested.

The remaining claims depend either directly or indirectly from amended independent Claim 3 and recite additional features of the invention which are neither disclosed nor fairly suggested by the applied references and are therefore also believed to be in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (310) 785-4721 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

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If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
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